

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB714

Chairperson: Senator Ken Schilz

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: January 22, 2016

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB714 is intended to expand the circumstances under which a surface water appropriation temporarily not be used for its originally granted purpose, as currently listed in Section 46-229.04.

LB714 will allow a surface water appropriation to participate in a local incentive program that temporarily changes the beneficial use of the surface water, in addition to federal and state programs, for up to 15 years without the surface water right being subject to cancellation by the Department of Natural Resources. Participation that will not jeopardize a surface water right currently limited to federal and state programs.

LB714 also provides that, if a surface water right is transferred temporarily to a natural resources district for integrated management purposes such as depletion offsets or aquifer recharge, then that surface water right will not be subject to cancellation by the Department of Natural Resources for the duration of the transfer or up to 15 years. This specific exemption is not currently found in Section 46-229.04.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator John Stinner